

May 29, 2006

# Afghanistan **Freedom** Combined Forces **Watch**



**Task Force Eagle  
provides medical aid**

**Pages 8,9**





A Korean soldier performs a leaping kick to break a board. The Korean soldiers performed a Taekwondo martial arts exhibit as part of the Asian Pacific American Heritage month celebration at Bagram Airfield. Asian Pacific American Heritage month is a celebration to honor the tradition and heritage of Asian and Pacific Asians.

Photo by Army Spc. Sam P. Dillon  
10th Mountain Division public affairs

**Cover: Eight-year-old Mamanda receives free health care and medication during Task Force Eagle's combined medical assistance mission in Motokon, Afghanistan on May 2.**

Photo by Army Sgt. Tim Sander  
345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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Soldiers, Afghans



## *Afghanistan* **Freedom** Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan **Watch**

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CFC-A Commander Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry  
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# Allies confer with Laghman governor

By Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Pintagro

Task Force Spartan public affairs

**CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan** -- Coalition leaders discussed allied regional operations, security and reconstruction efforts with the Laghman provincial governor during a meeting May 10 at the governor's residence in Mehtar Lam.

Task Force Spartan officers discussed current and upcoming reconstruction efforts with Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Zmarai, commander of 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps. The efforts are aimed at improving the lives of northeastern Afghans as well as regional security during the two-hour meeting with Gov. Gulab Mangal.

The leaders discussed topics such as current hydroelectric projects and road construction efforts as part of ongoing government reconciliation and border security programs. They also surveyed the progress of current anti-terror missions.

Nicholson noted accomplishments by the Coalition and Afghan national security



Army Col. John Nicholson, commander of Task Force Spartan, records some observations as Laghman Provincial Governor Gulab Mangal expands on a point May 10 at the governor's compound in Mehtar Lam.

forces during Operation Mountain Lion and looked forward to allied achievements throughout the region.

"We believe we have improved security in Kunar Province and we look forward to doing the same throughout the region," said Nicholson, task force commander said.

The governor, who assumed office in Laghman two months ago after serving as Paktika provincial governor for some two years, congratulated Nicholson and his men on their success in the anti-terror campaign. He also observed that allied gains during Operation Mountain Lion

**See ALLIES Page 4**

Photo by Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Pintagro

## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



### Afghan cultural tidbit

**Is it safe here?**

Dari

Ainja mason ast?  
(In-jamaf- soozast)

Pashtu

Delta aman dae?  
(Del-ta a-ma da)

*Afghanistan has never been inhabited by only one ethnic group. The modern country's boundaries were determined by the inetersts of foreign powers, and on every side they cut arbitrarily through land traditionally occupied by one ethnic group or another. Its citizens naturally identify with those who speak their language and share their culture.*

Courtesy Photo



# Allies assemble, address border issues

By Army Sgt. 1st Class

Michael Pintagro

Task Force Spartan public affairs

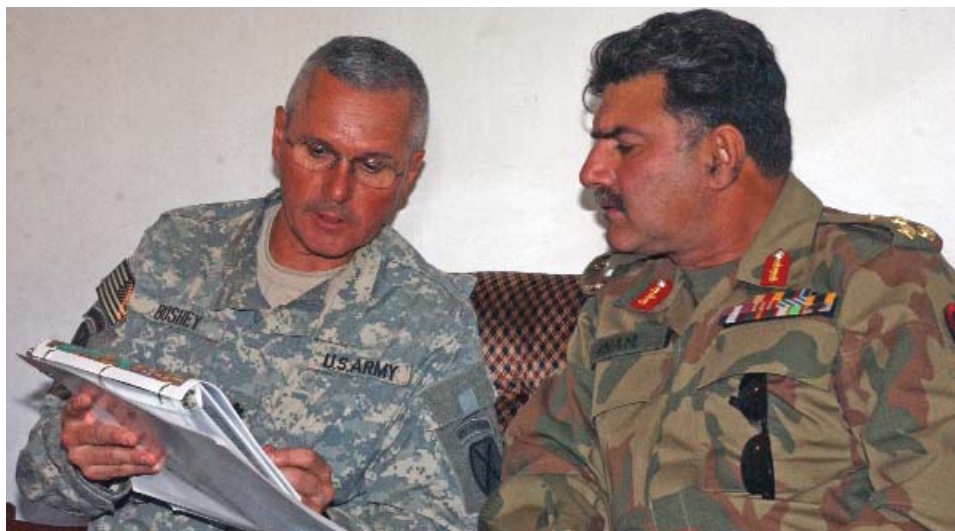
**FORWARD OPERATING BASE GARDEZ, Afghanistan** -- Allied leaders representing commands in the border region of eastern Afghanistan and western Pakistan conducted discussions aimed at addressing border issues May 3 at Kharlachi Post, a small Pakistani military installation located just inside the border.

U.S., Afghan and Pakistani delegations attended the three-hour tripartite meeting, held near the town of Parachinar, near the famous mountain battleground of Tora Bora.

Pakistani Brig. Gen. Inam Ulhaq, the commander of the 73rd Pakistani Brigade, hosted the event. Inam's command includes much of the Afghan border region.

Pakistani Lt. Col. Kausar Habib, commander of the Frontier Corps, and Pakistani Lt. Col. Khalid, commander of the 47th Battalion, 73rd Pakistani Corps, also represented their country at the meeting. Both leaders command units operating in the border region. Pakistani Maj. Gen. Alam Khatok, the inspector general of the Frontier Corps, also attended the gathering.

The allies discussed the impact of tribal customs, local disputes, recent allied military operations, demarcation and commu-



**Army Lt. Col. David Bushey, commander of Task Force Wolfpack, and Pakistani Brig. Gen. Inam Ulhaq, the commander of the 73rd Pakistani Brigade, examine border positions during tripartite discussions held May 3 at Kharlachi Post in Pakistan.**

nication technology, checkpoint procedures and rules of engagement, regional geography and outpost leadership on border issues. They also addressed diplomatic, political and cultural differences.

The lively talks generated vigorous debate, constructive discussion, earnest pleas for peace and understanding, and occasionally, humor, as allied spokesmen attempted, with mixed results, to communicate regional humor through interpreters.

Army Col. John Nicholson, the commander of Task Force Spartan and head of the American delegation, set the tone

of the meeting in his opening remarks.

"Together, all of us are fighting a common enemy in the border area," Nicholson said. "That is what unites us all: the same enemy fighting Afghans on one side of the border fights Pakistanis on the other side. We are dedicated to fighting and defeating a common enemy. The enemy fighting us here is the same enemy that attacked us in our country on 9/11."

Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Akram Sahma, commander of the 1st Brigade, 203rd ANA Corps, and key spokesman for his country during the

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extended beyond the frontiers of Kunar Province.

"The northeastern provinces were once part of a single province," Mangal observed. "A problem that affects one province always affects all of them. The operation was successful not only for Kunar Province, but for Laghman as well."

Nicholson emphasized the importance of "separating the enemy from the people" and assisting the local government in bringing benefits directly to

the people of Afghanistan.

"Now, when the enemy returns, he'll find a base in the Korengal Valley with an Afghan flag flying over it," the Baltimore native said. "He'll find young men working on road construction projects. He'll find a Korengal Valley much less hospitable to his designs. This is the way we defeat the enemy,"

The governor directly connected allied reconstruction programs with reconciliation efforts.

"If the people are given jobs, they won't accept money to

conduct terrorist attacks," he said.

The provincial leader discussed his vision for regional hydroelectric power, irrigation and commerce. Zmarai embraced the governor's vision of regional economic development and rural outreach. The ANA leader also embraced the call for northeastern security.

"With the governor's help, we'll bring security to the region," he said. "We are always at your service in maintaining security in this region."

He praised the efforts of Zmarai and the ANA forces

who fought side-by-side with Task Force Spartan Soldiers during Operation Mountain Lion.

The battalion commander noted that for all their tactical strength, his infantrymen needed the ANA's special rapport with the people in order to achieve ultimate victory.

"Obviously, these are things my men and I could never accomplish by ourselves," he said. "We can supply air support and ammunition, but we can't supply the kind of cultural expertise and experience the ANA brings to the fight."

# Air Force medic treats Afghan boy

**By Air Force Capt. Joe Campbell**  
**Panjshir PRT public Affairs**

**PANJSHIR PROVINCE, Afghanistan** -- After a chance meeting on a street with a boy in the mountainous village of Rokha, an Air Force physician's assistant was brought in to treat the youngster the very next day.

Fletcher Burton, Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team director, met 6-year-old Idris when he and a team were in the area performing inspections for a Commander's Emergency Relief Program project May 7. The following day, PRT members were again performing project inspections near Rokha when they met Idris' father, who happened to be a government official.

"We were inspecting several CERP projects, including 30 bee hives that we funded, when we met Mr. Thahir, the Government of Afghanistan Panjshir Representative for Environmental Ministry," said Burton.

Thahir met the team with great interest and when he learned that the PRT had medical experts, he asked if a medic could treat his only son, who was ill. He explained that his son had been seen by a local provider several days earlier, but the

symptoms persisted.

"After we arrived, we all sat down on a blanket to talk to the elders and the young boy came and sat right in front of me and calmly waited for me to examine him," said Maj. Kurt Workmaster, physician assistant for the Panjshir PRT. "I performed the exam, prescribed fluids and provided medication for his ailment. I expect him to make a full recovery."

As Rokha is not always a friendly environment for the PRT, the meeting was a chance to provide community outreach, but primarily, it was just the right thing to do, said Burton.

"This situation provided an excellent opportunity for us to go into the village, secure our presence there and work with the local people," he added. "It was also a great use of our medical experts and resources, as well as being the humane thing to do. We have a very capable team



Courtesy photo by Shahla Hammond

**Maj. Kurt Workmaster, Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team physician's assistant, examines 6-year-old Idris as his father and members of the PRT watch May 8 here. Thahir is the GOA Representative for Environmental Ministry. Seated next to him is Maj. Cliff White, Panjshir PRT, and Fletcher Burton, director of the Panjshir PRT.**

of medics and Idris was in need of medical attention."

This encounter is typical of most meetings in the region according to Burton. Communication and trust are built by word of mouth, a handshake and eyewitness encounter, he said.

"We go out into the community, meet people, sit and talk to them over tea, and this leads to many other things," said Burton. "The people of the Panjshir Valley are our friends and neighbors and we are happy to be here working alongside them."

## Enduring Voices

*What are you doing to prepare for the summer heat?*



**Army Spc. Chantel Callier**  
Bagram Airfield

*"Supplying my team with a lot of IV bags, tubing and needles."*



**Navy Seaman Brandon Crysell**  
Bagram Airfield

*"I'm drinking lots of water."*



**Air Force Airman 1st Class Justin Zamora**  
Bagram Airfield

*"I'm staying hydrated."*



**Army Chaplain (Capt.) Scott Koeman**  
Bagram Airfield

*"Carrying a bottle of water while running, eating regular meals and acclimating to the weather."*



# U.S., Egyptian medical caregivers touch Afghan lives

**By Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry**  
**19th Public Affairs Detachment**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- A surge of excitement filled the air as hundreds of Afghan men, women and children from Bagram and neighboring villages assembled at the Egyptian Field Hospital here May 18 to receive school supplies, clothing, shoes, toys and stuffed animals handed out by American and Egyptian hospital staff.

"I feel this mission is very important," said Army Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Meyners, 14th Combat Support Hospital (Task Force Med). "It shows the Afghans how much Americans care about their well being."

"Families of the 14th CSH, church groups and even families of troops already finished with their tours here donated the gifts the Afghans are receiving today," he added.

Meyners said he believed the humanitarian assistant mission gave the medical troops an opportunity to see the Afghans

from a different view.

The day's event also saw the American and Egyptian caregivers strengthening their bond.

"Cooperation with Egyptians shows the unity among the Coalition forces," Meyners said.

The two groups expect the effort to touch the lives of many Afghans in need of a helping hand.

"We're planning on 300 people coming today and they will take their things back and spread them out to their friends and family, meaning about 900 people will be reached," said Army Pfc. Mark Wright, chaplain's assistant assigned to the 14th CSH.

Reaching out to the Afghan people is something Wright said he wants to continue and says his goal is to carry out two or three more missions at the Egyptian hospital before the end of the year.

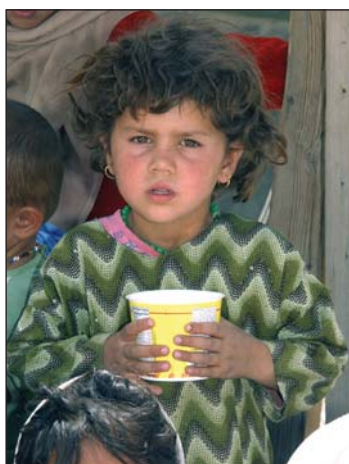
It's good to let the Afghans see that Americans are not only here to help their country as a whole, but to help them as individuals, he added.



Photos by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry

**Army Capt. Peter Clemens holds an Afghan woman's baby as she goes through the line to receive clothing, shoes and toys May 18 at the Egyptian Field Hospital on Bagram Airfield. Clemens is assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital.**

**An Afghan child holds a container of cereal given to her by an Egyptian Field Hospital staff member May 18 on Bagram Airfield.**



**Hundreds of Afghan women and children wait to receive school supplies, clothing, shoes and toys from American and Egyptian medical caregivers at the Egyptian Field Hospital on Bagram Airfield May 18.**



# Afghan, U.S. members help build school

By Army Spc.

James H. Tamez

19th Public Affairs Detachment

**BAITEMUR VILLAGE, Afghanistan** -- Afghanistan citizens from Baitemur Village and the surrounding areas are building a new school with funding and equipment provided by the Afghan National Army and U.S. Army.

The construction of the school, including the building of a security wall and the digging of a well, are being done by people living in the village in an effort to increase the availability of educational services for the children of surrounding communities.

"It feels very nice to build this school here," said Ghulam Hussain, village elder. "The school belongs here. It will give us the ability to teach many children from outside the village, which is good."

Hussain said although a school already exists in the village, the new building will meet the educational needs of 700 boys. After the school is completed, renovations would be made to the other school and it would become a school for girls.

Hussain said thanks to assistance of U.S. and ANA per-



Photo by Army Spc. James H. Tamez

**Construction workers mix mortar at the school construction site in Baitemur Village on May 13. The construction workers live in the local area.**

sonnel, they were able to begin construction on the school, which is expected to be completed within the next three months. "All that you see here is because of ANA and U.S. help," he added.

"We were made aware of the situation here by ANA personnel," said Army Maj. Jeff Mataruso, contracting officer representative, 209th Regional Command Advisory Group. "They told us about the need,

and we came out to see what we could do."

Mataruso said the construction project is both on schedule and on budget. He said a local contractor was used to build the school and people from the area around the village were hired to complete the project.

"I am very happy to be building the school," said Husin, construction worker. "It is very important. We need to

educate the children."

Husin said he was glad to see how quickly and how hard everyone was working. He said by helping to build the school, he is doing his part to help educate the children.

"With the fighting that went on for many years, many children were not going to school," Husin said. "Now, more and more schools are being built so that the children are educated."

## BORDER from Page 4

that his country and Pakistan have a common enemy, and therefore a common challenge.

"The enemy is the same on both sides," said Sahma. "If we have good meetings and constructive discussions, we can solve any problems we face."

Akram called for Pakistani-Afghan unity in the war on terror and warned against enemy attempts to exploit fissures among allies.

"We share the same region, the same language, the same religion -- the same every-

thing," he observed. "We have no differences. As long as we maintain a good relationship, the enemy can't make a space between us. The enemy will use any gap between Afghanistan and Pakistan against us."

The enemy fighters Afghan and Pakistani forces are facing do not want peace and stability in their countries, said ABP Col. Sher Ahmd Kochi, the Khwast ABP brigade executive officer.

"The bottom line is we only want peace and stability," said Kochi. "My hope is that we can live together like brothers. If

we want a good life, we need to cooperate and work together."

Kochi called for the establishment of an ethic of peace rather than successful violent struggle.

"In the old days, we always called the fighters the champions," he recalled. "But now we have to think differently. Those people who can bring the peace are the champions."

The meeting concluded with well-wishes and a brief luncheon as well as allied pledges to assemble for further discussion in the near future.



Army Capt. Militza Harris, physician's assistant for Task Force Eagle, examines the arm of 8-year-old Phari's during a combined medical assistance mission in Motokon, Afghanistan on May 2.



(Above) Army Spc. Dak Rainey, a combat medic with the 37th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, listens to the symptoms of baby Khalilullah from his father Ahmanullah.

(Right) Army Capt. Militza Harris, physician's assistant for Task Force Eagle, examining baby Siede Wali during a combined medical assistance mission in Motokon, Afghanistan on May 2



Army Capt. Militza Harris, physician's assistant for Task Force Eagle, checks the vital signs of 2-year-old Aid Muhammad, who has a fever.

## Task Force Eagle brings

By Army Sgt. Tim Sander  
345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHARANA, Afghanistan –

In a small brick building in the village of Motokon, lives are being changed with the help of Task Force Eagle Soldiers.

It is here in a dimly lit room with bare concrete floors that a U.S. Soldier provides medical care for a 2-year-old Afghan child who may not have otherwise received medication to treat his life-threatening, 112 degree fever.

He was the first of more than 200 patients that day for Army Capt. Militza Harris, physician's assistant for Task Force Eagle, who participated in a combined medical assistance mission in Motokon, Afghanistan on May 2.

With proper medication and medical expertise provided by Harris, the young child's problem was easily corrected.

"The purpose of the mission was to provide medical assistance to all the people of Motokon," said Harris, a member of the 37th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Many Afghans do not receive proper medical care because the medical system here is very old; probably 100 years behind in medical knowledge," she added.

In the most extreme case of a still evolving medical system, Harris spoke about a woman who tragically lost the majority of her face due to mouth cancer.

"The story she gave me was 'she had a little growth in her mouth.

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Photos by Army Sgt. Tim Sander

## Brings medical aid to needy Afghans

...y took her to Kabul and she had a simple surgery (to remove it).  
...w she is missing half of her face and cannot talk anymore. You  
...see the pain this lady goes through daily.”

Harris admits she does not know exactly what went wrong in the  
...rse of the woman's treatment, but she is certain the woman was  
...ared for properly.

“It's just sad to see the stuff that happens out here daily,” said  
Harris.

...e purpose of a CMA mission is to treat illnesses such as these  
...ore it becomes too late.

...feel as if by me treating and helping these people, I'm indirectly  
...ing American Soldiers,” said Army Spc. Dak Rainey, 37<sup>th</sup>  
...gineer Battalion combat medic.

...hen villagers in the area see Coalition forces supporting them, it  
...hopefully improve their view of the Coalition and, in turn, lead  
...ess improvised explosive devises and attacks, said Rainey.

Rainey also has personal reasons for his support and dedication.  
...really feels good when you're able to help these people in a way  
...y normally wouldn't be able to be helped,” he said. “Improving  
...r lives just feels very rewarding.”

...a country where clean drinking water and daily bathing are luxu-  
...few citizens are privileged to experience, the lack of cleanliness  
...leads to major medical problem for many citizens of  
...hanistan.

...lot of times we see problems associated with infection,” said  
Rainey. “These people know they've been injured, they know they

need to bandage it, but dealing with the secondary affects of  
injuries comes down to a lack of cleanliness, antibiotics and knowl-  
edge.”

To battle the knowledge deficiency, Harris works with medical  
practitioners in the area to organize classes that will teach basic  
medical treatment to citizens of Sharana. Among the classes taught  
will be first aid and how to treat infections.

These classes will be very helpful because many of the health  
problems here can be treated quickly with the proper medical  
knowledge, said Harris.

Although far from home, these Soldiers seem to understand the  
importance of their mission here.

“I miss my daughter,” Harris said, “she just turned one a couple of  
days ago and leaving her was the hardest thing I've had to do in my  
life. When I see these kids smiling at me and I know I'm helping  
them get a better life I think, ‘okay, it's worth it.’”

The work done here is also very rewarding, she said. “You can see  
the gratitude of the people you help in their eyes. Sometimes they  
even look at you like you're a hero and that's an awesome sensa-  
tion.”

When it comes to providing medical assistance, whether for a 2-  
year-old baby or a 20-year-old man, these Soldiers from Task Force  
Eagle always seem willing to make a difference.

“You may not be making a difference in the entire country, but  
you are making a difference in somebody's world,” said Rainey.  
“Knowing that gives me a little more to wake up for every day.”



**Central Movement Agency trainees Afghan National Army Sgt. Naqibullah and ANA Staff Sgt. Samiollah secure the protective covering of an A-22 Container Delivery System during training here recently. The ANA, along with their four embedded trainers from Kabul were hosted by the Combined Joint Task Force-76 during the three-day intensive class. The training event demonstrated the ANA's dedication to self-sustainment and diversity in future operations.**



**Afghan National Army Central Movement Agency trainees construct an A-22 Container Delivery System during training here recently. Pictured from left to right are trainees Afghan National Army Sgt. Kaliq, ANA Staff Sgt. Samiollah, ANA Sgt. Naqibullah and ANA Sgt. Saidaka.**

## Central Movement Agency receives air drop training

**By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mario Saenz**

**Central Movement Agency**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Ten Afghan National Army Central Movement Agency personnel recently attended formal Airdrop "rigging" training here.

The Combined Joint Task Force – 76 hosted the ANA and four embedded trainers from Kabul for an intense three-day class.

The CMA has grown to 184 people and 86 vehicles and is projected to eventually reach 890 people and 627 motor vehicles, said Air Force Maj. Richard Jones, senior mentor for the CMA.

In addition to serving as the ANA national ground transportation system, the CMA will provide logistical air transportation support and services.

CMA's Arrival Departure Airlift Control Group will consist of two teams consisting of 28 ANA personnel.

The A/DACG will become a vital part of future ANA missions providing strategic support to meet national military objectives.

The ANA received in-depth training on airdrop equipment familiarization; parachute types and installation; container and assembly line rigging; load tag data and joint airdrop inspection, said Air Force Tech Sgt. Chandler Thomas, Air transport mentor for the CMA.

The training included a demonstration of an airdrop delivery aboard an Air National Guard C-130 and a simulated airdrop of the A-22 Container Delivery System. For many ANA, it was their first experience on any type of aircraft.

"This is my first time inside an airplane," said one ANA soldier. "I enjoyed seeing how the crew operates the airdrop system."

The class received a visit from sen-

ior-ranking ANA and U.S. military officials. Brig. General Andarabi Dawood, ANA Logistics Command commander, expressed his support and talked about the significance of the training.

He also remarked on the cooperation of the Coalition forces in providing quality training and mentorship to Logistics Command and the ANA.

On the final day of training, the students demonstrated their training in real-world operations. Two ANA MI-17 helicopters were loaded with meals ready-to-eat and water in support of Operation Mountain Lion, a joint ANA/Coalition offensive against the Taliban. ANA members worked side-by-side with aircrew and U.S. Air Force embedded trainers to complete the task. The highlighted event received Afghan media and worldwide AFN coverage on the Pentagon Channel's weekly show, *Inside Afghanistan*.

The training culminated with a ceremony congratulating each student on completion of the course. Each ANA student received a certificate of completion and a commemorative Afghanistan – United States of America partnership pin. CJTF-76, Joint Logistics Center Commander, Army Col. Larry Wyche presided over the ceremony.

"Now, in addition to ground transportation capability, the ANA has the ability to transport supplies to areas not accessible by ground movement," said Air Force Master Sgt. Jonathan Tucker, CMA vehicle operations mentor.

At the ceremony, ANA Lt. Col. Muhammad Kabir, CMA executive officer, thanked those in attendance.

"Each student has learned from our American partners how we can assist other ANA units and provide them much needed supplies," said Kabir.



# ANA holds first soldier board in Shir Zai

**By Army Sgt. Mayra Kennedy**  
**345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

**CAMP SHIR ZAI, Afghanistan** -- The Afghan National Army held its first quarterly competition board May 13, where two soldiers were recognized as Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter.

Afghan Command Sgt. Maj. Mohammad Hanif "Ghaznawi," 205th "Hero" Corps, coordinated the event with representatives currently involved in the ANA NCO Academy program.

Hanif said for this first board he wanted the soldiers participating to prepare for how the interview process works for NCOs.

"They should know their duties and responsibilities involved as soldiers," said Hanif. "A lot of it is so they can become professionals and make other soldiers ready to conduct missions."

The selected NCO of the Quarter was Afghan Sgt. 1st Class Zar Mohammed, control power specialist, 5th Brigade, 1st Company in Shir Zai.

"I'm very happy to be chosen the winner of the NCO Board. I'm going to pursue my colleagues to try to do the same," said Mohammed, 22, from Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province.

Soldier of the Quarter, Afghan Spc.



**Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah "Raufi" (left) congratulates the NCO of the Quarter, ANA Sgt. 1st Class. Mohammed Smail. ANA Command Sgt. Maj. Mohammed Hanif "Ghaznawi" (in the left back) coordinated the board.**

Mohammed Smail, 21, 5th Brigade, 1st Company driver for the security company in Shir Zai, was in high spirits because his hard work preparing for the board paid off.

"I test myself frequently and that helped me a lot," said Smail, from Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province. "Giving soldiers a certificate puts pressure on us to be professional."

According to ANA officials, the purpose for holding this board was to identify and recognize the best enlisted forces and to

promote professionalism and high standards in all soldiers.

Attending the ceremony was Afghan Maj. Gen. Rahmatullah "Raufi," commander of the 205th "Hero" Corps, who addressed the winners and recognized their hard work.

"I'm proud of my NCOs, all of them," said Raufi. "They are an example of our corps and the ANA. They devote their lives for the corps and their colleagues and that's the reason for honoring them today."

Photo by Army Sgt. Mayra Kennedy



## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

**New members of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team arrive at Bamyán as they walk off a C-130 Hercules aircraft.**

Photo by New Zealand Army Sgt.  
 Bamyán PRT

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

# Vendor Day helps Afghan businesses

**By Army Spc. Carina M. Garcia**  
**345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

**KABUL, Afghanistan --** The second annual Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan Vendor Day was held May 17 at the Serena Hotel in downtown Kabul.

Contracting officers from Camp Eggers, Camp Phoenix and Bagram were there to inform and educate the Kabul business community on U.S. procurement practices.

Representing CFC-A was Air Force Brig. Gen. William A. Chambers, CFC-A deputy commanding general, who told participants that the coalition

has many opportunities for Afghan entrepreneurs.

“The Combined Forces Command goal is to help the government of Afghanistan establish itself as a stable business community free from international terror,” said Chambers.

Representatives of the joint contracting community explained cultural business differences such as not accepting or offering gifts due to the appearance of unfairness.

Keeping that simple practice in mind will promote public confidence and professionalism in the business community toward the government.

Afghan nationals were also

told about U.S. military requirements, proposals, training, criteria for contract awards, delivery, invoicing and payment methods. The joint contracting command offices also have a web site with more details at [www.militarycontracting.com](http://www.militarycontracting.com).

This year’s event hosted 77 local businesses and more than 165 participants. Businesses represented included construction, trading and logistics. Participants were primarily men, but women also visited with vendors to see how they could enter into the growing Afghan business community.

“Now that the Taliban are gone, women are free to own

their own businesses,” said Tahera Kabulzad, a female business owner. “This is a great opportunity for all women.”

A key element of Afghanistan reconstruction is identifying concrete actions to bring real and practical benefits to Afghan women, said Coalition officials.

“Treating all people equal and not worrying if they are a man or woman, Afghan or American, is important in the whole process,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Deborah Credeur, joint contracting command officer.

U.S. contracting offices have spent \$175 million in the last seven months with Afghan businesses.

“This event will continue to get bigger and better, and help with the continuing redevelopment of this great nation,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Scott A. Kiser, Joint Contracting Command – Afghanistan.

“You being here today can only bring us closer to reaching our goal of security and prosperity for Afghanistan,” Chambers told participants. “Our mutual goals will create opportunity for economic expansion and create jobs for Afghans by Afghans.”



Members of the Kabul business community and Coalition contract members attended the Joint Contracting Command’s second annual Vendor Day at the Serena Hotel on May 17.

## Afghan led mission detains Taliban leader

**Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan public affairs**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -** Afghan National Army and Coalition forces captured a mid-level Taliban leader during a combat operation May 19 in the Tarin Kowt District in Uruzgan Province.

Afghan forces from 3rd Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps and Coalition mem-

bers received information that Mullah Mohibullah, Helmand Province Taliban commander, was located at a Tarin Kowt local bazaar. The joint force maneuvered to detain Mohibullah without firing a single round.

Mohibullah is responsible for orchestrating a Taliban ambush in Uruzgon Province that killed one U.S. service member and wounded several others. He was

also involved in numerous terrorist attacks against Afghan government officials and Coalition members.

“Mullah Mohibullah and other insurgent leaders attempt to undermine the government of Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Paul Fitzpatrick, Combined Joint Task Force - 76 spokesman. “The Afghan people won’t be denied the security and prosperity they deserve.”



# ANA Inspector General visits Mazir-E-Sharif

## **Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan public affairs**

**KABUL, Afghanistan** -- The Afghanistan National Army Inspector General recently traveled to Mazir-E-Sharif to meet with members of the ANA's 209th Corps.

Maj. Gen. Jalendar Shah reviewed the start of the ANA's new IG system.

The new system will act as the eyes and ears, and voice of the ANA commanders and Afghan troops in helping improve military capabilities, correcting procedures and improving effectiveness.

"The new ANA IG system will focus on inspections that observe the well-being of our professional soldiers and the safeguarding of ANA equipment," Shah said.

Under this system, the Afghan military IG will objectively inquire and periodically report on discipline, efficiency,

leadership, morale, training and combat readiness throughout the ANA.

The IG will maintain a balance of being an extension of the commander, but it will also be independent so Afghan soldiers can approach leadership with confidence and without fear of reprisal.

"I look forward to the IG's report on our achievements, deficiencies or limitations," said Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Taj Mohamed Jared, 209th corps commander. "In the end I believe this visit will help the 209th corps and the Afghan National Army to improve security for our great nation."

In preparation for the new IG system, General Shah recently organized the first IG seminar at the Command General Staff College in Kabul.

Representatives from all the corps attended the seminar,



Courtesy photo

**Afghan National Army Inspector General Maj. Gen. Jalendar Shah talks to soldiers during a recent visit to Mazir-E-Sharif. The new IG system will act as the eyes, ears and voice of commanders and troops.**

which provided the first opportunity to exchange views and experiences since their September Inspector General class graduation.

The seminar also updated the IG corps on regulations and procedures, and helped pre-

pare the Afghan calendar year inspection cycle.

The seminar covered in detail the five new divisions of the IG program: Assistance, Inspections, Investigations, Intelligence Oversight and Technical Inspections.

# Coalition forces recover five weapons caches

## **Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan public affairs**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Coalition forces confiscated weapons caches in five locations on May 18.

Forces discovered seven mortar rounds, three rocket-propelled grenade rounds and three rockets near Bagram Air Field in Parwan Province.

A second cache consisting of 100 mortar rounds was discovered near Bagram after an Afghan reported the cache to Coalition forces. A Coalition patrol sent to the location determined all the rounds were in working order. Afghan National Army soldiers took control of the rounds.

"Recovering and disposing of

these weapons increases the safety and security of Afghans, and reduces the danger in the area posed by criminals and insurgents who might use

During a separate cordon and search in Puree Khel in Khost Province, Coalition forces found a small cache of munitions including ammo, a hand

82mm mortar rounds, 67 mortar fuses, 16 mortar launchers, 22 sighting periscopes, six recoilless rifle rounds and 27 projectile rounds. The cache was deemed unserviceable and destroyed.

In Ayub Khel in Khost Province, an Afghan turned in 25 anti-personnel mines to Coalition forces.

"In reporting these weapons, these people are doing the right thing," said Fitzpatrick. "Anyone who finds or has knowledge of a weapon cache is encouraged to report it to Afghan or Coalition officials, so it can be disposed of properly, ensuring the safety and security of the Afghan people."

**"Anyone who finds or has knowledge of a weapon cache is encouraged to report it to Afghan or Coalition officials, so it can be disposed of properly, ensuring the safety and security of the Afghan people."**

**Army Lt. Col. Paul Fitzpatrick  
10th Mountain Division**

those munitions indiscriminately to cause harm to the Afghan people, Afghan Security Forces or Coalition Forces," said Lt. Col. Paul Fitzpatrick, Combined Joint Task Force -76 spokesman.

grenade and anti-coalition propaganda.

Near Forward Operating Base Sarkoni, an Afghan turned in a weapons cache to Coalition forces. The cache included 19 unspecified mortar rounds, 10

# Afghan Nation Army assists court room clean-up

**By Army Spc. Carina M. Garcia**  
**345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

**KABUL, Afghanistan** -- Members of the 201st Central Corps Afghan National Army, along with U.S. judge advocates and paralegals, helped clean and prepare a building May 22 for future ANA court-martial proceedings at Camp Pol-e-Charki.

The effort, led by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Johnson, Judge Advocate General Corps, Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, was a "self-help" project that began after visiting the camp recently.

Johnson, who lives in La Plata, Md., sought the assistance of Army Col. Manuel Supervielle, Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan staff judge advocate, who was very receptive to the idea and encouraged the rest of his office to help.

Although one of the goals was to provide the ANA with acceptable space for the Central Corps judges, prosecutors, defense counsel and support staff, it wasn't the primary reason for the project, Johnson said.

"I was hoping that by showing them that officers in the American military were willing to help them clean their spaces, they themselves would want to take ownership

and make the best of their situation," said Johnson. "In fact, they took the lead and actually cleaned most of the spaces before we even arrived on clean-up day."

Twelve U.S. military members and 10 ANA soldiers helped with the project, including the chief judge of the Central Corps basic court, Colonel Hemayatullah.

They spent about two and a half hours scrubbing interior walls, hosing away dirt and picking up litter around the building. Once finished, the Afghans graciously invited their visitors for chai tea in the clean court room.

The service members needed to get the building ready since the ANA is scheduled to hold its first court-martial in the near future.

The ANA did not have a military justice system in place until a military courts law was passed in September 2005. Its military justice code took effect in December 2005. With the system and code in place,



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Chris Miller

**Service members and members of the Afghan National Army military court system meet May 22 to discuss any assistance and guidance the ANA may need to get their court up and running after cleaning up the building.**

the ANA is now ready to proceed with disciplinary actions up to and including courts-martial.

"I was extremely proud of the efforts of the ANA," said Johnson. "It was exciting to see them take ownership and display pride in their judicial spaces as they begin the process of implementing their newly created military justice system. With the combined efforts of the ANA and U.S. military working side-by-side, I am confident the ANA will be ready to hold its first ever court-martial very shortly."

## Canadian general discusses Qalat's future with governor

**By Air Force Capt. Kevin Tuttle**

**755th Energy Management Steering Group**

**QALAT, Afghanistan** -- A Canadian general visited the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team here May 15 in an effort to discuss the future of the Zabul province with Qalat Provincial Governor Del Bar Arman.

Canadian Brig. Gen. Daniel Pepin, deputy commanding general for effects from the Combined Joint Task Force 76, met with Arman and senior leadership at the PRT.

Army Lt. Col. Thomas Goodfellow, outgoing PRT commander, and Air Force Lt.

Col. Kevin McGlaughlin, incoming PRT commander, met with Pepin prior to the General's gathering with Arman.

Both U.S. officers expressed to the general the importance of getting nongovernmental organizations into Zabul province to reinforce the PRT mission in the future.

PRT officials reemphasized their goals to work hand-in-hand with Arman to construct two critical roadways that outline towns difficult to reach. They also discussed the completion of a bridge that has been on hold due to security issues.

Pepin discussed with PRT

officials how security has improved significantly.

"All the construction being done is dependent upon local security, which is first of all the responsibility of the government, the Afghan National police, Afghan National Army and Coalition forces," he said.

Another issue discussed was the increase threat posed by improvised explosive devices in the northern part of the province where already nine have exploded in May alone.

Pepin said that there are still improvements to be made before they can move ahead, especially regarding security to prevent IED control and how actions need to be taken.

Arman stated that Zabul province is in great need.

"Since last year I've seen a lot of changes in this province," said Arman. "We were able to bring physical changes to it by getting rid of the warlords."

He explained how the conditions in the area have improved and how the residences are proud to raise the Afghan flag as a sign of trust in the government.

"We want to continue to show how strong the PRT is and then the non-governmental organizations and United Nations will come to bring further development and improvement to the province," said Arman.



# Surgeons work together to save service members, Afghans

**By Army Pfc. Michael J. Nyeste**  
**19th Public Affairs Detachment**

## **BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -**

- In this war torn land of Afghanistan, landmines and rocket attacks, among other implements of war, pose the possibility of severely injuring and wounding service members and Afghans. However, after the devastation, there's hope for these victims.

Surgeons from the 14th Combat Support Hospital work hard every day to save and maintain the quality of life for service members and Afghans.

"I operate and perform surgery on broken bones, soft tissue injuries, land mine injuries where there's deep cuts in muscles, tendons and ligaments," said Army Capt. Shawn Hermenau, an orthopedic surgeon with the 14th CSH. "I reconstruct, and sometimes amputate, arms and legs. In March, we did 92 surgeries and most were soft tissue reconstruction, fractures and amputations."

Constantly conducting so many surgeries on people who've suffered so much does wear on the surgeons at times, Hermanau said.

"It affects you, especially the small children," he said. "You lose a lot of sleep sometimes, but it's the success stories that make it all worth it."

Success stories like Afghan citizen Bui Payee whose legs were injured in a landmine blast. Had it not been for the advanced skill and hard work of the surgeons and medical staff, Payee would not have been able to keep his leg, he said.

Now, after extensive surgeries, all signs point to him being able to walk almost as well as he did before the incident, he said.

The efforts of the surgeons saved Payee's legs, but other members of the 14th CSH played their own role in alloying him to keep his legs.

"No one saves a life without 10 people behind them," he said. "It takes a team to save a life. Every Soldier in the 14th CSH plays a part in helping people."

It's working with people at the 14th CSH and using his medical knowledge to help his fellow man that has made this deployment such a memorable experience, he said.

"Being in Afghanistan has been the most rewarding experience I've had, personally and professionally," he said. "I



Photos by Army Pfc. Michael Nyeste

**Army Maj. Keith Havenstrite, a cardio thoracic surgeon, watches closely as he operates with precision on an Afghan woman who was injured in her home during a rocket attack.**

volunteered to stay an extra six months. It's a great opportunity to make a direct impact I never would have had a chance to do."



**Army Maj. Keith Havenstrite, a cardio thoracic surgeon, and Army Maj. Richard Nahouraii, general surgeon, operate on an Afghan woman. Both work with the 14th Combat Support Hospital.**



**Army Maj. Keith Havenstrite, a cardio thoracic surgeon, and Army Maj. Richard Nahouraii, general surgeon, operate on an Afghan woman while Army Capt. Amy Beasley, operating room nurse, provides and monitors the anesthetics. All work with the 14th Combat Support Hospital.**



# *Freedom Watch*

May 29, 2006



**"We, and all others who believe in freedom as deeply as we do,  
would rather die on our feet than live on our knees."**

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt**